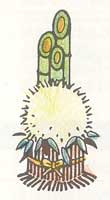
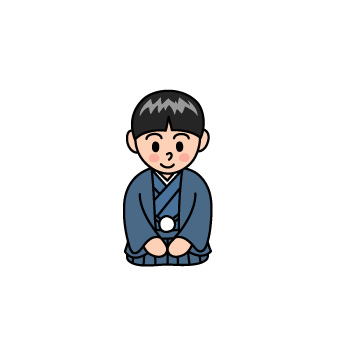
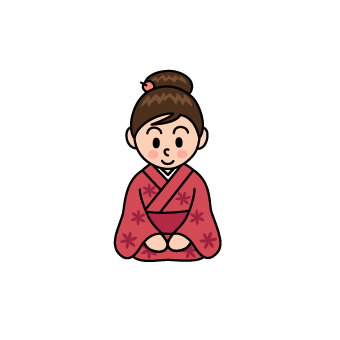
**In our Japanese classes for the Holiday Season………**



Even though the Japanese people do not celebrate the secular (religious) side of Christmas, they have learned from other cultures about some of the traditions and you may see Santa Claus and a Christmas tree in Japan, in stores and homes. But, December 25th is a regular day, with children going to school and adults going to work. New Year’s is one of the biggest holidays of the year in Japan. This month, we will be connecting information and activities surrounding this holiday with what we are studying in Japanese and other academic areas.



**あけましておめでとうございます！**

**Akemashite Omedetoo Gozaimasu!**

**Happy New Year Everyone!**

In **Grade 2**, we are continuing to work on the concepts of time in Japanese. We just read a book about a 2nd grader in Japan whose name is Mimiko and she explained what she likes to do for the New Year’s Holiday and other celebrations throughout the year. We will be making a traditional Japanese Samurai Warrior Kite to display and take outside on a sunny day to fly.

Kagamimochi is a decoration of rice cakes with seaweed and an orange on top displayed in the house at New Year’s time.

In **Grade 3** Japanese, we are getting really good at putting symbols together to spell 2 and 3 character words! We will read about the traditions surrounding the Japanese New Year and make some comparisons to our own Holiday celebrations. Ask your kids to share this information with you!

In **Grade 1**, we’ve been talking about “needs and wants” in our families and we are learning a Santa song which practices putting pieces of language together to talk about what he “needs” to wear and get ready to take off in his sleigh. We will also be making a book together about the Japanese New Year celebration. Our homework over the holiday vacation will be to read this book to 3 different people!

In **Grade 4 and Grade 5** Japanese, we will be using our Japanese to describe the different traditions surrounding the Japanese New Year. We will also be designing our own Nengajoo (Japanese New Year’s Postcard) that connects New Year’s traditions in Japan with the animal of the year on the Chinese Zodiac. 2013 will be the year of the Snake. We make one “Nengajoo” to send to a contest for students in the United States that are studying Japanese and one to send to our pen pals at our sister school in Japan

In **Kindergarten**, we started a unit on “My Body/My Health” and we will be using our colors to make patterns with reindeer noses, singing a new song about Santa and working on shapes, big and small, that we can put together to make different objects.